

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 868

By Harwell

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of the late Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley.

WHEREAS, Francis Marion "Frank" Hendley was born on February 24, 1917, in Birmingham, Alabama, and was the youngest son of Seay Smith Hendley, Sr., and the former Loula Mae Dixon; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley attended Norwood Grammar School and Phillips High School in Birmingham, Alabama, and completed the 11th grade in 1933; and

WHEREAS, in August of 1942, Mr. Hendley volunteered to serve in the United States Coast Guard Reserves and was called to active duty in Nashville, Tennessee, the following month; and

WHEREAS, he served his country with the utmost valor in the Pacific Theater during World War II as a member of the Amphibious Assault Forces assigned to the USS *Hunter Liggett*; these sea units were issued a commendation on January 11, 1943, by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley and his Coast Guard unit would go on to receive several more commendations, as they always lived up to the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus* (*Always Ready*); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley operated landing craft in invasions from Guadalcanal to Bougainville (Solomon Islands Campaign) and was honorably discharged on October 10, 1945, with the rank of Boatswains Mate 2nd Class; and

WHEREAS, his exceptional record of service to his nation is evinced by his receipt of numerous awards and decorations, including the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Battle Stars, the Combat Action Ribbon, the American Campaign

Medal, the American Defense Medal with Fleet clasp, and the Coast Guard's Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, while on leave from the U.S. Coast Guard, Frank Hendley married the former Martha Elizabeth Edmondson, and to this blessed union were born five children: Joyce Clarisse Todd, Patricia Ann Kitching, George Meredith Hendley, Ginger Lynne Lanier, and Dan Dixon Hendley; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley returned to work at Gordon Foods Company at their office in Louisville, Kentucky, where he had begun his career with the company in 1937 as a salesman; by the time of his enlistment with the Coast Guard, he was serving as a sales supervisor, and upon his return from the war, he was promoted to the position of regional manager, in which position he organized salesmen in Tennessee, Kentucky, and Indiana from his headquarters in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Frank Hendley left Gordon Foods in 1952 and moved to Ocala, Florida, where he joined a real estate firm in Silver Springs, first working as a salesman and later serving as a partner in Graggs and Hendley Realtors; and

WHEREAS, entering politics in 1964, Mr. Hendley sought the office of Marion County Tax Assessor but was defeated in the primary, and in 1968, after waging a valiant campaign to defend the "homestead exemption," he was defeated after a hard fight in the general election; and

WHEREAS, in November of 1975, Frank Hendley was elected the first national president of the Hendley Family Association, Inc., of Tennessee, leading the organization with honor and integrity through 1977; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendley was a prominent and highly influential figure in the political, social, and civic lives of his community, he as a rancher, real estate broker, salesman, sailor, public servant, and family man, and he always worked diligently to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Francis Marion Hendley passed away on November 15, 1986; since that time he has been posthumously honored by the legislatures of eight states, and he was

posthumously awarded a Certificate of Recognition by U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being who had such an enormous impact on the citizens of this State and upon all who knew him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Francis Marion Hendley, reflecting fondly upon his meritorious career, his exemplary record of public service, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.